

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

ENERGY &
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
INTERIM COMMITTEE 2017-2018

January 16, 2018

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Exhibit 31

Dear Chairman McNally and ETIC Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to update you on Governor Bullock's Energy Blueprint, released in June 2016. I am currently touring an advanced coal facility in Houston, Texas as part of the State CO2 and Enhanced Oil Recovery Working Group, which Governor Bullock co-chairs with Wyoming Governor Matt Mead. I apologize I am not able to join you in person, but DEQ's capable staff members Laura Andersen and Dan Lloyd have worked closely with the Blueprint and will provide an informative update on the plan.

The Energy Blueprint was developed by Governor Bullock to chart a path forward for Montana's energy future that continues to position the state as an energy leader in the region, creating new jobs, while protecting those we already have. The Blueprint was developed after several meetings with industry leaders, workers, conservationists, small businesses, and homeowners. The result is a plan that seeks to guide Montana's energy future for generations to come by focusing on, among others: building Montana's energy presence in the region, energy efficiency, coal development, solar power, wind energy, and developing other renewable and alternative energy resources.

While we continue to implement and work on the tasks assigned by the governor, we have accomplished many goals the document laid out, which Dan and Laura will review in more detail. The governor looks forward to working with you again during the 2019 Legislative Session to achieve the Blueprint's goals that require legislation. He also looks forward to reviewing the policies that your committee develops for the next legislative session, so that we can work together to ensure Montana is in control of our energy future and that our energy policies drive economic growth, allow for innovation, and create good paying jobs across the state.

When it comes to energy development, there are many stakeholders with various interests, but by working together during the governor's term in office, we will complete many of the Energy Blueprint's tasks. As the governor said in his remarks when he unveiled his Blueprint:

"When we do it right, we'll be able to say we found the right balance: we protected our outdoors (and the tens of thousands of Montana jobs that rely on clean water, clean air and agriculture); we provided wealth to our citizens in the form of good jobs. When we do it right, we will be proud to pass on a Montana that is still the envy of the nation for our quality of life and economic stability."

As the governor's energy policy advisory, I look forward to working with you. Good luck with the remainder of your ETIC hearing and I would be happy to answer any follow up questions you may have about the Blueprint when I return. My email is aschafer@mt.gov and I can be reached at 444-4521.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Schafer".

Adam Schafer